

NW Oregon Transit Alliance (NWOTA)
Coordinating Committee **Annual** Meeting Minutes (Teleconference)
July 14, 2017
Tillamook, OR

1. Introductions: Doug Pilant, Coordinating Committee Chair, opened the meeting. Meeting attendees called in:
 - Cynda Bruce—Lincoln County Transit
 - Jeff Hazen—Sunset Empire Transportation District
 - Lee Lazaro—Benton County Transportation
 - Doug Pilant—Tillamook County Transportation District
 - Michael Ray—Columbia County Rider
 - Thomas Craig —Trillium Solutions
 - Ken Shonkwiler—ODOT
2. Consent Calendar Approved Unanimously approved. (LL/JH)
 - ✚ June 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes
 - ✚ June 2017 Financial Report—Some reimbursements are still to come in reimbursing for marketing costs and NWOTA's updated website.
 - ✚ June 2017 Ridership Tracking—Report was handed out and reviewed.
3. Election of Officers

Voting was unanimous for each of the following officers:

 - ✚ Chair—Doug Pilant (JH/LL)
 - ✚ Vice-Chair—Cynda Bruce (LL/JH)
 - ✚ Secretary Treasurer—Michael Ray (JH/LL)
4. NWOTA Standing Items
 - ✚ STIP Transit Access Study—Ken reported that contracting is still going through the Oregon Department of Justice's Office. All concurred with Ken's suggestion to have the consultant meet with the consultant at NWOTA's next in-person meeting.
 - ✚ Marketing/Advertising—The Connector ads are continuing to run throughout the Summer. Because no funds were awarded for marketing next biennium, NW Connector plans for future marketing are on hold until budget balances are finalized.
 - ✚ Groupon Promotion—Jeff went over the numbers associated with promotions. The group concurred that for now, any revenues would just go into NWOTA's budget.
 - ✚ Website—Thomas reviewed some of the group's outstanding questions, and described how to address them through the website interface.
 - ✚ HB 2017 (Oregon Transportation Package passed in the 2017 Legislative session)—Overview of the Public Transit component of the bill:

The measure provides statewide funding for public transportation service. It establishes a payroll tax of one-tenth of one percent on wages paid to employees. Proceeds from the payroll tax will be deposited in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund. Ninety percent the Fund will be distributed to counties without a mass transit district or transportation district, mass transit districts, transportation districts, and federally recognized tribes. Five percent will support a competitive grant program established by the commission, four percent to improve public transportation services between two or more communities, and one percent to support a technical resource center at ODOT for rural areas. To be eligible to receive distributions under this program, entities must submit a public transportation improvement plan to the commission. Distributions from the fund are to be used to: increase the frequency of bus service to communities with a high percentage of low-income households, purchase

buses powered by natural gas or electricity, reduce fares in communities with a high percentage of low-income households, and expand bus routes and services to reach communities with a high percentage of low-income households. The funds may not be used for light rail. In summary:

- One-tenth of 1 percent employee paid payroll tax created.
- Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund created to finance public transit improvements, excluding light rail.
- Four percent of funds dedicated to intercity public transit.
- Safe Routes to School matching grant program created under auspices of OTC.
- Cash match of 40 percent required.
- For use on projects within one-quarter mile of pre-K, K, 1-8 grades, or K-12 facilities
- ✚ Driver Training—Cathy Bond will reach out individually to each partner to set up a schedule to start the training.
- ✚ NWOTA Work Plan—Management Plan: Benton County will be getting their Coordinated Plan approved first, and then take the NWOTA Management Plan for staff review in September, with Commission approval in October. There was a consensus that partners would get the Management Plan approved by their respective commissions before going back to work on NWOTA's IGA and Bylaws.

5. Member Updates

- ✚ Sunset Empire Transportation District—Jeff asked if all meetings in the future could be face-to-face because of the improved communication. The group agreed, and Mary will send out a revised schedule.
- ✚ Transit During the Eclipse—Partners are still working out details and will need to coordinate. Even those districts not in the eclipse swath will be impacted by the traffic congestion.

Next Meeting: August 11, 2017. In-person.

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Col-Pac EDD and NWOTA Staff